

## AGM 2022

1:25 start

Attendees:

Executive committee: Natalie Edwards (President), Gemma King (Vice President), Leslie Barnes (Secretary), Jenny Davis Barnett (Membership Officer), Beth Kearney (Postgrad Officer)

Members present: Trudy Agar, Yuri Cerqueira dos Anjos, Bertrand Bourgeois, James Cannon, Jacqueline Dutton, Paul Gibbard, Greg Hainge, Joe Hardwick, Amy Hubbell, Beth Kearney, Patrick Kennedy, Charles Rice-Davis, Alistair Rolls, Diane de Saint Léger, Chamadi Chambers Samadi, Sophie Tallis, Joëlle Vitiello, Sonia Wilson

Members online: Tess Do, Valentina Gosetti, Barbara Hanna, Jarrod Hayes, Andrew McGregor

### 1. Chair's Welcome and Apologies (Natalie Edwards)

Natalie welcomed colleagues and remembered Colin Nettelbeck; Gemma gave a report on the Colin Nettelbeck PG prize in French Studies, which this year was awarded to Anne Roberts in Sociology at James Cook University; the prize will contribute to Anne's fieldwork in New Caledonia.

### 2. Approval of the 2021 AGM minutes (Natalie Edwards)

The 2021 minutes were not sent out last year due to clerical error, so Nat shared them on the screen and scrolled through for everyone to have a quick look. Everyone enjoyed Leslie's many misspelled names, then the minutes were approved.

### 3. Actions/Business arising from previous minutes

No actions from the minutes.

### 4. 2022 Conference (Natalie Edwards)

Nat thanked the NZ team for the conference, which has been a great success. Yuri expressed his thanks to the ASFS for the encouragement and support in the conference organizing and more generally. He acknowledged how much work it has been and noted that he'd discussed some budget issues with Natalie. He encouraged future organisers to reach out for tips on organizing a hybrid conference in the future. Charles echoed Yuri's comments, sharing his thanks for ASFS support.

### 5. Accounts (Natalie Edwards for Chris Hogarth, who was unable to attend)

\$49,218 in the account currently. Some payments remain to be made.

Expenses this past year include:

\$1200 for PG travel

\$396 for website

\$500 on Community engagement prize

\$300 on new logo

Alistair commented on the logo, proposing we make pins. Nat thanked him for volunteering to take that on. ☺

## 6. Community Outreach and Mentorship programs (Leslie Barnes)

### School Outreach and Community Liaison Fund:

The first round went to Charlotte Mackay (\$500), who is collaborating with the Association of French Teachers of Victoria and the Forum de la Francophonie to start a literary club for secondary school teachers of French. The project aims to promote the diversity of French language literature from around the world and provide professional development opportunities for teachers of French to expand their knowledge of Francophone literature and use this expanded knowledge in their French classrooms for the benefit of both themselves and their students. They have established a timeline for our literary club and selected Nathacha Appanah's *Tropique de la violence*, 2016. They are planning two sessions next year: the first is a 2-hour workshop which they will hold twice with 10 teachers each time, designed to help teachers discover the book and develop pedagogical resources on its themes; the second is an online session with the author as part of the Nuit de la lecture in Melbourne. These workshops will be held at one of Monash University's two Melbourne campuses.

Charlotte and her collaborators are also seeking funding from the Association of French Teachers of Victoria and Monash University as we would like to establish this program on a permanent basis if successful.

### Mentorship program:

We made 11 new matches with 22 colleagues (many of whom are already serving as mentors or mentees and are now moving into the other role as well). Pleased to see more international colleagues getting involved in this program – mostly as mentees.

Leslie noted that we have framed these as mentor/mentee relationships, which while incredibly valuable, can also communicate a hierarchical relationship that may be intimidating or unproductive for some. So she also encouraged members to explore this as an opportunity for solidarity, for collaboration and for sharing early-, mid-, or later-career insights in a way that benefits both colleagues. She also encouraged participants to reach out if she could help find a better match. These mentorship arrangements aren't necessarily meant to be permanent (though they can be), and it's perfectly reasonable to seek new perspectives for new questions, challenges, etc.

## 7. Communications (Gemma King representing Nick Strole, who was unable to attend)

7240 website views from 3498 visitors

252 FB members (that is a group open for announcements from all)

829 Twitter followers

Fewer members at the moment than in the last few years. This may be because the conference in 2020 (143 members) was free and included international participants in a novel way; now we're back down to membership numbers in the 50s. We might want to have a think about how to boost those numbers.

Jarrold asked for confirmation as to whether conference registration was coupled with membership. Yuri noted that there were a few different payment portals, depending on membership status. Gemma noted that there may be some confusion surrounding paying for 1 or 2-year membership and whether it is attached to the conference. Jenny confirmed this. Jarrold proposed a mechanism that would help us check whether we need to renew. Nat proposed we take this to the Exec and report back.

**8. Postgraduate Activities (Beth Kearney for Clara Sitbon, who was unable to attend)**  
Beth thanked Clara for all her work in the space.

Membership: 22 PGs and ECRs, up 5 from 17 reported last year.

Two prizes: PG essay prizes (3 submissions) and the Colin Nettelbeck (3 submissions;  
Winner: Ann Roberts)

Upcoming activities: Beth would like to start thinking about the PG space as a PG *and* ECR space, especially given the precarity in the profession; this would extend the solidarity created in the PG space.

The reading/ writing support group: Three sessions per year, the members would write together for 1.5 hours, then check in to discuss challenges, etc. Two weeks later, each member would submit some written work, and all would give and receive feedback on this writing. She encouraged wider participation.

The PG day was attended by between 17-22 people in person and online, including panellists. Beth thanked all those who participated for their efforts and expertise. She also invited feedback from PGs and ECRs.

Beth proposed a mid-year WIP event that would bring PGs and ECRs together and give more established colleagues the chance to learn about and respond to our younger colleague's work.

Natalie then reported on the PG prize, which we decided not to award this year. She noted that because we value our relationship with *AJFS* and because of the high standards of the journal, we didn't feel that the scope of the articles matched what the *AJFS* does. Instead, we gave extensive feedback and encouraged the candidates to submit again.

**9. *AJFS* report (Jarrod Hayes)**

First year that we published four issues instead of three, and all were published on time. The copy edits have just gone in for the 4<sup>th</sup> issue. He noted that because he got behind on this work, he has been delayed in updating the editorial board. He wanted to thank all those who've read articles for them and noted the general difficulty in finding reviewers. He also encouraged the organizers to turn this conference into a volume (3<sup>rd</sup> issue of 2024), the completed version would be due March 24.

**10. Future conferences (Natalie Edwards)**

University of Sydney has volunteered to take it on next year. Sonia expressed their enthusiasm for hosting everyone next year and thanked Yuri, Charles and Jean for their willingness to share what they've learned. The theme will be Bodies and Corporeality. University of Melbourne has offered to host us in 2024. Andrew expressed his thanks to Sonia and the Sydney team and to the Melbourne team for their prompt replies to his idea to host. He also announced that Antonia Wimbush would be joining them middle of next year, and that he anticipated a theme in line with Global French Studies. Thanks to both departments for volunteering!

**11. Election of Office Bearers for 2022 (Natalie Edwards)**

Natalie has thanked the Executive for their work and declared all positions vacant. The following colleagues were nominated and elected:

President: Gemma King

Vice President: Leslie Barnes

Treasurer: Valentina Gosetti

Secretary: Andrew McGregor

Communications Officer: Nick Strole

Postgraduate Officer: Beth Kearney

Membership Officer (ad-hoc, extended): Jenny Barnett

Other Business: Bertrand spoke of the Frame seminar, encouraging wider participation, and Gemma offered Natalie a thank you gift and card on behalf of all.